

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02131 101743Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSCE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 INRE-00 /061 W

-----075023 101807Z /44S

O 101339Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2664

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 4149

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROG, SF, WA, TZ, BC

SUBJECT: APPARENT ABSENCE OF INVITATION OF BOTSWANA TO LUANDA
MEETING ON NAMIBIA

REF: (A) GABORONE 2121 (B) STATE 172789 (C) GABORONE 2123
(D) STATE 172846 (E) DARESSALAAM 2904

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY MPOTOKWANE PHONED
EMBOFF SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 9, TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT
KHAMA AND INFORMATION MINISTER KWELEGOBE, BOTH OF WHOM HAD
JUST RETURNED TO GABORONE FROM SEROWE AND DARESSALAAM
RESPECTIVELY, DECIDED AT AIRPORT CONFERENCE THAT IT WAS
TOO LATE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO LUANDA, PARTIALLY
BECAUSE OF BAD AIR CONNECTIONS. APPARENTLY NEITHER THE
PRESIDENT NOR THE MINISTER WERE AWARE OF THE CONFERENCE
ON ARRIVING IN GABORONE. MPOTOKWANE COMMENTED THAT ABSENCE
OF BOTSWANA WOULD NOT MATTER SIGNIFICANTLY INASMUCH AS HER
VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF TANZANIA.

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PAGE 02 GABORO 02131 101743Z

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER BOTSWANA HAD RECEIVED INVITATION,
MPOTOKWANE SIMPLY SAID, WITH EVIDENT DISGUST, THAT SUBJECT
OF CONFERENCE WAS NOT MENTIONED DURING KWELEGOBE'S VISIT
TO DAR, NOT EVEN BY THE TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO,
ON HIS WAY TO LUANDA, SAT NEXT TO KWELEGOBE ON PLANE
AS FAR AS LUSAKA.

3. AT PRESIDENT'S DAY RECEPTION JULY 10, PRESIDENT KHAMA TOOK DCM ASIDE TO SAY HE REGRETTED "WE COULD NOT ATTEND", BUT TO EXPLAIN THAT HE INITIALLY HAD IMPRESSION ONLY TANZANIA WOULD REPRESENT OTHER FL STATES AT LUANDA. THUS IDEA OF SENDING GOB REP CAME AS A SURPRISE, WHEN IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE TO IMPLEMENT IT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FAILURE TO ISSUE BOTSWANA AN INVITATION MAY HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN ADMINISTRATIVE BLUNDER BY TANZANIA, IT APPEARS THAT SUCH BLUNDERS COULD BE REPEATED. ACCORDINGLY, THERE IS EVERY GOOD REASON FOR KEEPING GOB INFORMED INITIMELY WAYOOF NAMIBIAN-ZIMBABWEAN DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. END COMMENT. NORLAND

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. SCOTT.

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